

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 and 7-8 are pending in the application.

Claim 1 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of Claim 6, now canceled. Support can be found, for example, in describing the curable compounds in the description from page 14, line 17 to page 15, line 24; and in describing the curable compounds used in the Examples (specifically, on page 25, line 22; on page 26, lines 24-25; on page 27, lines 6-8; and the like) of the specification as originally filed. No new matter is added.

Applicants amend the specification to correct the typographical error "tree" to read "three" on page 14, lines 12 and 17; on page 15, lines 12 and 25; and on page 17, line 12.

Entry of the Amendment is respectfully requested, along with reconsideration and review of the claims on the merits.

Formal Matters

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that the drawings filed on September 29, 2003 are accepted. Applicants also appreciate the Examiner's acknowledgement of Applicants' claim for foreign priority and receipt of a certified copy of the priority document. Applicants also appreciate the Examiner's consideration of the IDS filed on September 29, 2003.

Response to Claim Objections

Claims 6-7 are objected to because of the following informality: the word "tree" should read --three--.

In response, Applicants cancel Claim 6, the subject matter of which is now incorporated into Claim 1 reciting “at least three”, and amend Claim 7 such that the objection of Claims 6-7 is now moot.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to Claims 6-7.

Response to Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as assertedly being unpatentable over Tadokoro et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,444,298) in view of Kanzaki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,376,066), for the reasons given in the Office Action.

Applicants respond as follows.

As previously noted, Claim 1 now recites “a cured layer which contains a curable coating containing a compound having at least three (meth)acryloyloxy groups in its molecule or an oligomer thereof”.

The combination of Tadokoro and Kanzaki fails to render obvious the present invention.

Tadokoro discloses an acrylic resin laminated film including a layer comprising an acrylic resin composition containing an acrylic resin and acrylic rubber particles and a layer comprising an acrylic resin containing no impact-resistant material. Tadokoro, however, fails to disclose or suggest a cured layer containing a curable coating which contains a compound having at least three (meth)acryloyloxy groups in its molecule or an oligomer thereof. Also, Tadokoro

fails to disclose or suggest use of the resin laminated film as a protecting sheet in a display window of a portable-type information terminal.

The secondary reference to Kanzaki discloses a transparent substrate coated with an antistatic layer formed by photocuring a composition comprising (A) a photocurable material comprising a (meth)acrylate having at least one hydroxyl group and two or more (meth)acryloyl groups in a molecule, (B) conductive zinc antimonate and (C) a photopolymerization initiator. Kanzaki also discloses use of the transparent antistatic layer-coated substrate as a display material, a cover material at the front face of display apparatuses and the like. Kanzaki, however, fails to disclose or suggest at least a methacryl resin layer containing a rubber particle dispersed therein. Kanzaki also fails to disclose or suggest use of the transparent antistatic layer-coated substrate in a display window of a portable-type information terminal.

In comparison, the film of the present invention comprises:

- (i) a methacryl resin layer containing a rubber particle dispersed therein; and
- (ii) a cured layer containing a curable coating which contains a compound having at least three (meth)acryloyloxy groups in its molecule or an oligomer thereof.

By using layer (ii), a high scratch resistance is obtained for a protecting sheet in a display window of a portable-type information terminal (such as a portable phone and a personal digital assistant). Also, by combining layers (i) and (ii), a thin thickness and a high scratch resistance of the film are both attained at the same time, while sufficiently high scratch resistance in a thin, small form is especially needed when the film serves as the protecting sheet in the portable-type information terminal. It is difficult to attain such a high scratch resistance for a small, thin

protecting sheet in a portable-type information terminal if, for example, a curable material comprising a (meth)acrylate having two (meth)acryloyl groups in a molecule is utilized, as taught in Kanaki.

As mentioned above, Kanzaki does not intend to use its transparent substrate in a display window for a portable-type information terminal, and therefore, does not require the curable material to have at least three (meth)acryloyloxy groups in its molecule, and also does not disclose or suggest a combination of a layer containing a rubber particle with a cured layer which contains a compound having at least three (meth)acryloyloxy groups in its molecule or an oligomer thereof.

The beneficial effects (such as a high scratch resistance) obtained by using a compound having at least three (meth)acryloyloxy groups in its molecule and also the advantages (such as a high strength against an impact even in a thin, small form in a portable-type information terminal window) obtained by combining layers (i) and (ii) are not rendered obvious over or expected from the disclosures of the cited references.

Without selecting the preferable curing compound which has at least three (meth)acryloyloxy groups in its molecule among the compounds in Kanzaki, the presently claimed invention cannot be obtained. In addition, the effects of the present invention are not expected and, in fact, are not attained by one skilled in the art by merely combining the disclosures of Tadokoro and Kanzaki. Accordingly, the present invention is patentable over Tadokoro in view of Kanzaki.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appln. No.: 10/671,766

Atty. Docket No. Q77554

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

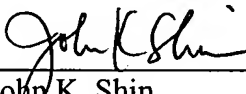
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